



Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (NEW) A method for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;
said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data to a central file server or server group after utilization of available storage space on the said nodes or server group, and;
said data written onto said central file server is striped across said shared storage space on said nodes in said network system.
5. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the data written to the central file server or server group is abstracted and displayed as a local file with a pointer to the actual location on the central file server or server group.
6. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the data sent by the nodes to the central file server or server group is written with or without parity.
7. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the data written to shared storage is batched together into a sequential log and then divided into efficient larger blocks to optimally use the network and I/O subsystem bandwidth.
8. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the data written to shared storage is scheduled at off-peak system usage times based on statistics provided by network bandwidth meters and I/O subsystem capacity.
9. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the data is written either at a file level or block level.
10. (NEW) A method of claim 4, where the high data availability on all nodes and server groups is ensured through computed parity and multiple levels of redundancy.

11. (NEW) A system for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;
said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data to a central file server or server group after utilization of available storage space on the said nodes or server group, and;
said data written onto said central file server is striped across said shared storage space on said nodes in said network system.

12. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the data written to the central file server or server group is abstracted and displayed as a local file with a pointer to the actual location on the central file server or server group.

13. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the data sent by the nodes to the central file server or server group is written with or without parity.

14. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the data written to shared storage is batched together into a sequential log and then divided into efficient larger blocks to optimally use the network and I/O subsystem bandwidth.

15. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the data written to shared storage is scheduled at off-peak system usage times based on statistics provided by network bandwidth meters and I/O subsystem capacity.

16. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the data is written either at a file level or block level.

17. (NEW) A system of claim 11, where the high data availability on all nodes and server groups is ensured through computed parity and multiple levels of redundancy.

18. (NEW) A method for creating and operating a communicatively coupled network system with effective utilization of data storage capacity on nodes in said network system wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes;

said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data across the said shared storage capacity of all or a select set of nodes or server groups in said network system.

19. (NEW) A method for the effective utilization of data storage capacity in a communicatively coupled network system using a storage architecture wherein:

the storage capacity on all or selected nodes in said network system is segmented into non-sharable and shared storage capacity based either on the percentage of 'available/unused' or 'total installed' storage capacity or as a specific amount of unused or installed storage capacity on the nodes; said method further enables all or selected nodes to write data to a central file server or server group after crossing a predetermined storage capacity threshold, and; said data written onto said central file server is striped across said shared storage space on said nodes in said network system.

20. (NEW) A method of claim 19, where the data written to the central file server or server group is abstracted and displayed as a local file with a pointer to the actual location on the central file server or server group.

21. (NEW) A method of claim 19, where the data written to shared storage is batched together into a sequential log and then divided into efficient larger blocks to optimally use the network and I/O subsystem bandwidth.

22. (NEW) A method of claim 19, where the data written to shared storage is scheduled at off-peak system usage times based on statistics provided by network bandwidth meters and I/O subsystem capacity.

23. (NEW) A method of claim 19, where the data is written either at a file level or block level.
